

WE CLAIM:

1. A communication and learning device comprising:
 - a first panel having opposite facing sides and carrying a plurality of indicia-bearing units on one of said opposite facing sides;
 - a second panel having opposite facing sides, said second panel housing a display screen on one opposite facing side;
 - a third panel having opposite facing sides and carrying a keyboard having a plurality of keys on one of the opposite facing sides;
- wherein said first, second and third panels are pivotably engaged to one another along one edge of each of said panels; and
- means for generating a perceptible output in response to an input from said indicia-bearing units.
2. The communication and learning device of claim 1, wherein said side of said second panel opposite of said side housing said display screen carries a plurality of indicia-bearing units.
3. The communication and learning device of claim 2, wherein the indicia-bearing units are raised, depressible buttons.
4. The communication and learning device of claim 2, wherein each of said indicia-bearing units are in electronic connection with said perceptible output generating means.

5. The communication and learning device of claim 4, wherein the perceptible output generating means is selected from the group consisting of an audibly perceptible output generating means, visually perceptible output generating means or both.

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6. The communication and learning device of claim 5, wherein said visually perceptible output generating means is a source of visible light.

7. The communication and learning device of claim 5, wherein said audibly perceptible output generating means is a sound synthesizer.

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8. The communication and learning device of claim 7, wherein said sound synthesizer is electronically connected to a speaker and, optionally, to a sound amplifier.

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9. The communication and learning device of claim 5, wherein each of said indicia-bearing units are electronically connected to an audibly perceptible output generating means and to a visually perceptible output generating means.

10. The communication and learning device of claim 2, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes indicia thereon selected from the group consisting of a word and a graphic.

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11. The communication and learning device of claim 10, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes a word and a graphic corresponding to the word thereon.

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12. The communication and learning device of claim 10, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes a word in a first language and the corresponding word in a second language.

5 13. The communication and learning device of claim 12, wherein the language of the first and second languages are different and are selected from the group consisting of English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Hungarian, Croation, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

10 14. The communication and learning device of claim 13, wherein the first language is English and the second language is Spanish.

15 15. The communication and learning device of claim 10, wherein at least one indicia-bearing units includes a word in a first language, a corresponding word in a second language and a graphic corresponding to both the word in a first language and the word in a second language.

16. The communication and learning device of claim 1, wherein said keys of said keyboard bear a letter of an alphabet, a numeral, a punctuation mark or a command.

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17. The communication and learning device of claim 2, wherein said keys of said keyboard bear a letter of an alphabet, a numeral, a punctuation mark, or a command.

25 18. The communication and learning device of claim 1, further comprising a power supply to provide power to said device.

19. A communication and learning device comprising:

a first panel having opposite facing sides and carrying a plurality of indicia-bearing units on one of said opposite facing sides;

5 a second panel having opposite facing sides, said second panel housing a display screen on one of said opposite facing sides;

a third panel having opposite facing sides and carrying a keyboard having a plurality of keys on one of the opposite facing sides;

wherein said first, second and third panels are pivotably engaged to one another along one edge of each of said panels;

10 means for generating a perceptible output in response to an input from the keys or indicia-bearing units;

a processing means for processing input received from said keys of said keyboard; and

memory means.

15 20. The communication and learning device of claim 19, wherein said side of said second panel opposite of said side housing said display screen carries a plurality of indicia-bearing units.

20 21. The communication and learning device of claim 20, wherein the indicia-bearing units are raised, depressible buttons.

22. The communication and learning device of claim 20, wherein each of said indicia-bearing units are in electronic connection with said perceptible output generating means.

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23. The communication and learning device of claim 22, wherein said perceptible output generating means is selected from the group consisting of audibly perceptible output generating means, visually perceptible output generating means or both.

5 24. The communication and learning device of claim 23, wherein said visually perceptible output generating means is a source of visible light.

25. The communication and learning device of claim 23, wherein the audibly perceptible output generating means is a sound synthesizer.

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26. The communication and learning device of claim 25, wherein said sound synthesizer is electronically connected to a speaker and, optionally, to a sound amplifier.

15 27. The communication and learning device of claim 23, wherein each of said indicia-bearing units are electronically connected to audibly perceptible signal generating means and to visually perceptible signal generating means.

20 28. The communication and learning device of claim 20, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes indicia thereon selected from the group consisting of a word and a graphic.

25 29. The communication and learning device of claim 28, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes a word and a graphic corresponding to the word thereon.

30. The communication and learning device of claim 28, wherein at least one of said indicia-bearing units includes a word in a first language and the corresponding word in a second language.

5 31. The communication and learning device of claim 30, wherein the language of the first and second languages are different and are selected from the group consisting of English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Hungarian, Croation, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

10 32. The communication and learning device of claim 31, wherein the first language is English and the second language is Spanish.

15 33. The communication and learning device of claim 28, wherein at least one indicia-bearing unit includes a word in a first language, a corresponding word in a second language and a graphic corresponding to both the word in a first language and the word in a second language.

34. The communication and learning device of claim 19, wherein said keys of said keyboard bear a letter of an alphabet, a numeral, a punctuation mark or a command.

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35. The communication and learning device of claim 20, wherein said keys of said keyboard bear a letter of an alphabet, a numeral, a punctuation mark, or a command.

25 36. The communication and learning device of claim 19, further comprising a power supply to provide power to said device.